

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 INR-10 SP-02 L-02 RSC-01

DRC-01 DODE-00 EB-03 /041 W  
----- 086055

R 110628Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1449

INFO USCINCEUR

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12252

LIMDIS

USCINCEUR ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US

SUBJ: CALL ON GENERAL AMAN REGARDING MILITARY  
ASSISTANCE

REFS: A. STATE 222159

B. STATE 222270

C. USDAO/ADDIS 0666 OCT 74

D. ADDIS 12251

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL B I CALLED ON GENERAL AMAN OCTOBER 10 IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND CONVEYED GIST OF UNDER SECRETARY SISCO'S STATEMENT TO ETHIOPIAN FINANCE MINISTER NEGASH DESTA ON OCTOBER 7.

2. GENERAL AMAN EXPRESSED APPRECIATION THAT HIS REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS BEING CAREFULLY CONSIDERED. HE SAID HE IS THOROUGHLY CONVINCED OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH THE US. THE USG FOR ITS PART IS AWARE OF ETHIOPIAN CONCERNS REGARDING SOMALIA AND OF THE JUNE 1975 DEADLINE WHICH HE HAS SET FOR FULL PREPAREDNESS TO MEET A POSSIBLE  
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SOMALI ATTACK. THE SOVIET UNION HAS PROVIDED SOMALIA

SUCH EXTENSIVE ARMS ASSISTANCE THAT IT HAS SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED THE MORALE OF THE ETHIOPIAN ARMED FORCES. US MILITARY ASSISTANCE EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN ARRIVING MORE EXPEDITIOUSLY OF LATE, HOWEVER, AND THIS HAS HELPED HIM TO IMPROVE THE MORALE OF THE ARMED FORCES. (COMMENT: MAAG HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS APPRECIATIVE COMMENTS ALONG THESE LINES IN RECENT WEEKS.) GENERAL AMAN BELIEVES THE USG WILL APPRECIATE, IN RELATION TO HIS RECENT REQUEST, HOW DIFFICULT IT WOULD BE FOR THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND CASH PURCHASES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT BY THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT AT A TIME WHEN THE ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING SO MUCH FROM THE DROUGHT.

3. IN A SHORT SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION I REVIEWED REMARKS WHICH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MULCAHY HAD MADE TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER ARAYA EARLIER THAT MORNING (REFTEL D). HE HAD SPOKEN OF THE GREAT INTEREST IN WASHINGTON REGARDING RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA, OF THE FACT THAT THE USG HAS ONLY THE BEST OF WISHES FOR THE PRESENT ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, AND OF THE MISTAKEN BELIEF OF SOME YOUNG ETHIOPIANS THAT US ASSISTANCE IN PAST YEARS INDICATED A US PREFERENCE FOR THE TYPE OF REGIME THEN EXISTING IN ETHIOPIA. I ALSO DISCUSSED CURRENT USG PRACTICE REGARDING RECOGNITION, MAKING CLEAR THAT NO EXPLICIT STATEMENT REGARDING RECOGNITION IS NECESSARY IN VIEW OF THE NORMALCY OF PRESENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE ETHIOPIAN PROVISIONAL MILITARY GOVERNMENT.

4. GENERAL AMAN COMMENTED THAT ONE REASON WHY THE MILITARY MOVEMENT IN ETHIOPIA HAS PROCEEDED SO WELL MAY BE THAT ALMOST ALL ITS OFFICERS HAD BEEN TRAINED IN THE U.S. HE SAID THAT THE MOVEMENT IS ANXIOUS TO CREATE A REAL DEMOCRACY IN ETHIOPIA, AS CONTRASTED TO THE PREVIOUSLY EXISTING PARLIAMENTARY FACADE. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THE USG POSITION ON RECOGNITION AND HAD NEVER BEEN WORRIED ON THAT SCORE.

5. IN CONCLUSION I SAID THE EMBASSY WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE  
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HIS GIVING THE NECESSARY APPROVAL SO THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT CAN SIGN THE DOCUMENT ON THE TRANSFER OF KAGNEW TRACT E AND ALSO THE NINTH SUPPLEMENTAL LEASE. GENERAL AMAN SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

6. COMMENT. GENERAL AMAN WAS MORE RESTRAINED ON THE SUBJECT OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE THAN I HAVE FOUND HIM ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS. HE MAY WELL REVERT TO HIS

EARLIER ATTITUDE, HOWEVER, IF THE RESPONSE TO HIS  
REQUEST IS NEGATIVE. ALMOST SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH OUR  
CONVERSATION, A MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIAL WAS WARNING  
OUR ARMY ATTACHE THAT A NEGATIVE RESPONSE WILL DELIVER  
ETHIOPIA TO THE SOVIET UNION, AS WAS THE CASE WITH  
NASSER (REFTEL C).  
WYMAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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